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REMARKS

Claims 1, 2, 5-8, 11-14 and 16-21 were pending in this application, with claims 3, 4, 9, 10 and 15 having previously been canceled, without prejudice or disclaimer. By the present Amendment, claims 1, 2, 5-8, 11-14 and 16-21 have been amended to clarify the claimed subject matter. More specifically, all references to "network terminal" in the claims have been replaced with "network facsimile". Claims 1, 2, 5-8, 11-14 and 16-21 would remain pending upon entry of this Amendment, with claims 1, 7, 13 and 14 being in independent form.

Claims 1, 2, 7, 8 and 11-14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as purportedly anticipated by Onaga (US 6,266,693). Claims 5, 6 and 16-21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as purportedly unpatentable over Onaga in view of Ohnishi et al. (US 5,655,152).

Applicant respectfully submits that the present application is allowable over the cited art, for at least the reason that the cited art does not disclose or suggest the aspects of the present application that one network facsimile apparatus *receives setting information directly from another network facsimile apparatus*, the setting information received from the other network facsimile apparatus corresponds to settings of said other network facsimile apparatus, and the one network facsimile apparatus sets itself based on the setting information received from the other network facsimile apparatus. Such aspects reduce the number of instances of manual settings in the network facsimile system as a whole, by propagating settings from one network apparatus to another network apparatus.

Onaga, as understood by applicant, proposes a network environment or system including a file server 120, a network workstation 150, one or more MFP (multi-function peripheral) devices 110a (that include printing, scanning, copying and other functionalities), and a host device 110b, as shown in Fig. 4 (reproduced below) of Onaga, wherein status information

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regarding the MFD devices, and setting changes for the MFD devices 110a, are communicated from the network workstations 150 via the file server 120 and the host 110b to the MFD devices 110a.

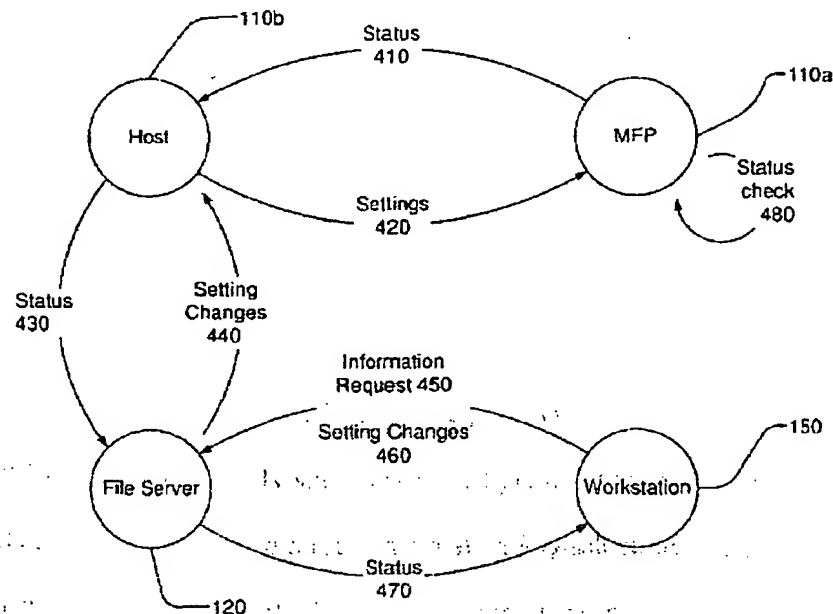


Figure 4

As already pointed out in the record, the network workstations 150 do NOT communicate the setting changes directly to the MFD devices 110a, and instead the file server 120 and host 110b in Onaga act as intermediaries for delivering the setting changes to each MFP 110a, and do NOT set themselves (that is, the server and host) according to the setting changes. The setting changes received by the MFP 110a from the host 110b simply do NOT reflect settings of the file server 120 and host 110b in Onaga.

Further, assuming (and applicant does NOT concede) that the MFD devices 110a of Onaga can be equated to network facsimile apparatuses, Onaga says nothing whatsoever

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regarding having one of the MFPs 110a transmit settings information indicating the settings of that MFP to another MFP 110a and having the other MFP 110a apply such settings to itself.

Instead, the approach proposed in Onaga, as already pointed out, relies on a user, administrator or technician at the network workstations 150 to specify the setting changes and the user-specified setting changes are communicated by the network workstations 150 through the file server 120 and host 110b to the MFP 110a.

Ohnishi, like Onaga, does NOT disclose or suggest the aforementioned aspects of the present application that one network facsimile apparatus receives setting information directly from another network facsimile apparatus, the setting information received from the other network facsimile apparatus corresponds to settings of said other network facsimile apparatus, and the one network facsimile apparatus sets itself based on the setting information received from the other network facsimile apparatus.

Applicant submits that the cited art, even when considered along with common sense and common knowledge to one skilled in the art, does *NOT* render unpatentable such aspects of the present application.

Accordingly, applicant respectfully submits that independent claims 1, 7, 13 and 14, and the claims depending therefrom, are allowable over the cited art.

In view of the remarks hereinabove, applicant submits that the application is allowable. Accordingly, applicant earnestly solicits the allowance of the application.

If a petition for an extension of time is required to make this response timely, this paper should be considered to be such petition. The Patent Office is hereby authorized to charge any required fees, and to credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 03-3125.

If a telephone interview could advance the prosecution of this application, the Examiner

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is respectfully requested to call the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,



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